



# SEATTLE WORLD'S FAIR



CENTURY 21 EXPOSITION, INC.

SEATTLE 9, WASHINGTON, U. S. A. CEntury 5-2121

## SPACE NEEDLE STORY

Soaring into the sky above Seattle is the symbol of the 1962 World's Fair--a 600 foot spire topped with a saucer-shaped restaurant and a flaming gas beacon.

One memorable architectural feat has distinguished every past World's Fair. At the London Exposition of 1851, it was the Crystal Palace; the Eiffel Tower survived the 1889 Fourth French International, and at the last United States World's Fair 23 years ago, New York people saw the Trylon and Perisphere.

Now the Seattle World's Fair adds a significant symbol to the list: the Space Needle.

Dramatically conceived as a landmark attraction for the April 21-October 21, 1962 event, the Space Needle also qualifies as a theme structure for the Fair, known as Century 21 Exposition, America's Space Age World's Fair.

Fairs are fun, and the Needle will add a special thrill for the more than 10,000,000 visitors who will see the Seattle World's Fair.

They'll ride to its top in space-capsule shaped, high speed elevators with vision ports, mounted on the outside of its triangular core of steel.

Once above, they may dine in a circular, glass-enclosed restaurant which revolves 360 degrees once every hour, or visit the observation deck and enjoy snack service.

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At 730 feet above sea level, here's what they will see:

A panorama of the fairgrounds below, the City of Seattle, Puget Sound, the Cascade and Olympic Mountain Ranges, and famed Mt. Rainier.

Architects and engineers predict the Space Needle will be one of the most-talked-about structures of the year. In slightly more than 13 months from the time it was designed by John Graham, Seattle-New York Architect, it will be completed and opened for the official ceremonies headlined by President John F. Kennedy.

The Space Needle is not only the tallest building west of the Mississippi; it is also the only one of its kind. Designed as a sheaf-like form crowned by a "jewel", it must serve as a sound commercial venture for the private financers who have put \$3,500,000 into the project, and who will retain it as a permanent attraction in the Seattle Center after the close of the Fair.

Cost analysis experts studied tower-restaurant operations in Tokyo, Stuttgart, Dortmund, Rotterdam and Paris. About 260 persons can be served in the 94-foot diameter "Eye of the Needle" restaurant. Surveys were made both for the Space Needle Corporation, and for Western Hotels, which will operate the restaurant and cocktail lounge, on how many people the tower could handle, based on elevator capacity and "staying time" on top.

The height of the tower was determined by the view, which includes a vista 150 feet over the top of Queen Anne Hill, one of Seattle's highest.

Construction of the Space Needle, dubbed a "400-day wonder" has proven a round-the-clock operation. Here are a few details:

Three huge I-Beams were welded together flange-to-flange to form the leg design. A new type of structural carbon steel called A36 made by United States Steel was used. The tower is designed for nearly twice the earthquake load and half again as much wind

velocity as ever recorded in Seattle.

There are 3,400 tons of steel in the tower alone, but its center of gravity is close to the ground, where the foundation, 30 feet deep, contains 250 tons of reinforcing steel and 72 steel anchor bolts four inches in diameter and 31½ feet long, buried in more than 5,600 tons of concrete.

Pacific Car & Foundry of Seattle, doing the fabricating, brought leg sections to the Fair tower site which were up to 90 feet long, weighing 90,000 pounds.

A derrick crane designed to lift 35 tons, climbed its way inside the core of the Space Needle, unfolding its boom and reaching over the top to hoist as the tower grew.

The Space Needle, with its captivating "Eye of the Needle" restaurant and thrilling cloud-level view, will be the center of attention, but not the only attraction at the 1962 World's Fair.

Equal billing may go also to the world's first high-speed, mass transit Monorail, which travels the mile from downtown Seattle to the Fairgrounds in a minute and a half.

A multi-million dollar United States Government Science Exhibit, including a five-part pavilion with a simulated ride through space faster than the speed of light, and a four-acre Coliseum filled with a floating city of the year 2000, are other Space Age stellar attractions at the World's Fair.

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